

June 23, 2017

Jeanette P. Tamayo - Regional Director
U.S. Department of Congress Economic Development Administration
Chicago Regional Office
230 South Dearborn Street, Suite 3280
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Ms. Tamayo

I am writing in support of the Village of Osceola's application for funding through the Economic Development Administration (EDA)'s Public Works program.

The Village is seeking funding for the creation of a Fab Lab & Workforce Development Facility on the site of the former Fullerton Lumber property. This project will provide local job seekers employable skills that are now required in high-tech manufacturing as well as supply employers with a knowledgeable workforce.

Regional benefits of the project include the fostering of a highly skilled workforce, increased career development, access to specialized equipment to allow companies to create and test prototypes before sending to market and acceleration of new tech-based companies. The desired results include an improved standard of living for area residents.

Financial support for the Fab Lab is pivotal to the future of Osceola. The Mill Pond Learning Foundation has created a team of exceptionally qualified community members to foster this public/private project.

I strongly urge you to support Osceola's Fab Lab project by approving their grant request. Thank you for your time and consideration of this application, and please let me know if I can provide you with any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress